cdfa CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE
Karen Ross, Secretary

DATE: July 25, 2011

TO: All County Agricultural Commissioners

FROM: Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services

SUBJECT: **A and Q Pest Report No. 26-2011**
Weekly A and Q Report: For the week of June 23-29, 2011

Attached is the report for all A and Q pests intercepted or detected in California from June 23-29, 2011. Pests are identified by the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Plant Pest Diagnostics Laboratory.

Border Station Interceptions!

Spittlebugs **PDR: 5050652**

On June 23, 2011, a variety of nursery stock from Oregon arrived at the Tulelake Border Protection Station. Supervisor Ann Garrison found an insect in a foamy looking substance on pine tree nursery stock. Digital images (below) were sent to the Plant Pest Diagnostics lab and identified as Q- rated Cercopidae Family, commonly called spittlebugs.

Spittlebugs, at the nymph stage, are best known for forming masses of spittle from plant sap that they suck out. Spittle covers the insect and may hide the nymph from predator or prey and insulates the nymph from the heat or cold.

The load was returned out-of-state to the Oregon shipper. The shipper off loaded the pine trees and the truck re-entered California at the Truckee Border Protection Station. A Warning-Hold Notice (66-008) was issued to the remainder of the load and it was allowed to proceed to final destination.

Needle Nematode **PDR: 5012978**

On June 14, 2011, a vehicle with Washington plates entered the Alturas Border Protection Station. Plant Quarantine Inspector Jim Worch spoke with the driver and found that she was traveling from Salt Lake City, Utah to Shasta County with house plants and an outdoor plant in her possession.

Alturas Border Protection Station

Upon inspection, the three indoor house plants were found free of pests but the outdoor plant, which was from a friend's flowerbed in Salt Lake City, Utah, had a live insect in the soil.

Inspector Worch issued her a Certificate of Inspection (66-007) and the outdoor plant was left behind. The plant was rejected under Food and Agricultural Code 6461.5 for live pests.

Inspector Worch submitted samples to the Plant Pest Diagnostics lab and the following pests were identified:

PDR No.	Pest Scientific Name	Pest Common Name	Rating
5012977	*Deroceras* sp.	slug	C
5012978	***Longidorus elongatus***	**needle nematode**	Q
5012978	*Helicotylenchus dihystera*	Cobbs spiral nematode	D

About *Longidorus elongatus* – needle nematode
Courtesy of Dr. John J. Chitambar, Senior Plant Nematologist Specialist, CDFA:

"*Longidorus elongatus* – a needle nematode, is an ectoparasite of plant roots that feeds at or just behind root tips causing a characteristic swelling or galling of the tips as well as a general stunting of the root system. *L. elongatus* can feed on over 60 plant species comprising of a wide variety of herbaceous annual and perennial crops and weeds. Direct feeding by the nematode alone has caused severe crop damage to strawberry, sugarbeet, rye grass, carrots and peppermint. In the USA, there are reports of severe damage caused to carrots, rye grass and peppermint.

L. elongatus transmits the Scottish strains of raspberry ringspot virus (RRV), tomato black ring virus (TBRV). Raspberry, although a poor host to the nematode, is readily infected by both viruses transmitted by the nematode resulting in severe crop loss. Strawberry roots are damaged both by the direct feeding of the nematode as well as transmitted RRV and TBRV. *L. elongatus* also transmits spoon leaf virus to red currants, certain raspberry varieties and weeds.

L. elongatus occurs in sandy and sandy loam soils, and has been found mainly in temperate regions: Britain – especially North East England and Eastern Scotland, Western and Eastern Europe and Russia, Greece, India, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand and USA (Arkansas and Oregon)."